







## OUR COMPLETE SHORT STORY—

## Mr. Rohan Sees The Light

By MYRON J. BIENSTOCK

ROD COOPER tucked his empty right sleeve back into his pocket, and glanced apprehensively at the house numbers above the door. Twelve-zero-four, the letter in answer to his application had said. This was it, the imposing residence of Joseph Rohan, the almost legendary head of Inter-American Steel, one of the greatest steel mills in the country.

He squared his shoulders, swept an unruly strand of hair back into place, and pressed the bell. His lean, sensitive face was tense, a worried look in his dark eyes. The door opened, and a maid looked at him questioningly.

"My name is Cooper," he said. "Mr. Rohan is expecting me."

"Will you come in, please?" she replied, staring at his empty sleeve. He flushed angrily, and stepped in to the hall.

"You may wait here, sir," she said. "I'll see if Mr. Rohan is busy." She disappeared through a door at the opposite end of the hall. "Go right in, sir," she said quietly, when she returned. "Mr. Rohan will see you now."

Rod stepped through the carved oak door, into a large, well-appointed study. The walls were paneled in dark oak, with row upon row of heavy books in shelves running half way to the high ceiling. A deep Persian rug muffled his steps. The partially drawn blinds reduced the study to semi-darkness.

"Step right over here, Mr. Cooper," came a mild, clear voice from the man in a chair in the corner. "Sit down, and we'll talk business."

As Rod approached the deep leather chair, a sharp bark stopped him. A large, handsome dog was stretched out in front of him, eyeing him suspiciously. He skirted the animal, and sank into the chair.

"Don't mind Champ," Rohan said. "He's suspicious of everybody. We're very attached to each other." He laughed good naturedly. "He never leaves my side for a minute. Why, he even goes to the plant with me." He paused a moment.

"I guess you think it's strange to call you here for this interview, Mr. Cooper. But it's not my usual custom," he continued. "I'm recovering from a rather nasty cold, and won't be able to get back to the offices at the plant for another few days. You see," he added, "I like to take a personal interest in hiring the employees of Inter-American."

He leaned back in his chair, holding his spectacles, a wiry man with a full, ruddy face, and thin grey hair. His faded blue eyes darted past Rod, and fastened on the wall.

"Tell me son, how was it over there?" he asked. "I see from your letter of application you were in the Pacific. Pretty rough, I suppose?" Rod laughed, a harsh, guttural sound in the quiet room. "Yes, Mr. Rohan, it was pretty rough. Nothing I would recommend for the kiddies."

"Oh yes, sorry, Rod," he paused uncomfortably, and after a moment, continued. "Hope you don't mind if I call you Rod?" He raised his eyebrows questioningly.

"No, sir. That's quite all right."

"Well, then, suppose we get down to business," the old man continued.

"I see you worked for the Grey Company for four years. Why didn't you go back to your old job?"

"They went out of business, sir. That lets me out, I'm afraid."

"How were you doing there, son?" Rohan asked, his eyes shifting back to Rod, and then down to the desk. "What position did you hold?"

"Well, sir, I started as a junior accountant," Rod answered, "and rose to assistant to the head of the department by the time I entered the service."

"Hmmm," murmured the old man, "that's travelling quite a distance in three—no, four years, wasn't it? Of course," he continued rapidly, "I don't think you'll advance as quickly in our organization. We're rather large, you know. But I think you know we don't hesitate to reward good work." He paused, and toyed with the letter on his desk.

"There's one thing that makes me hesitate, Rod," he continued, somewhat hesitantly. "You say in your letter of application that you lost an arm in the service. Were you right or left handed, son?"

Cold beads of sweat popped out on Rod's forehead. It was the same question they all asked. How many personnel managers had he seen? A dozen? More? He could still see the looks in their eyes as they shook their heads. "We'll keep you in mind if there's an opening," they would say, as they coughed politely.

Couldn't they realize that it was more than just a job to him? More than just getting back into the routine? He felt, deep inside him, that it was his Holy Grail. Its capture would signify that he was not a useless hulk of a man, a burden on the community; an object of pity from which people averted their eyes.

No, they never put it into words, those personnel men. "Not enough experience, Mr. Cooper." No, not enough experience, as they turned their eyes from that empty sleeve.

Suddenly a new thought flashed on him. He would tell Rohan that he had been left handed. He would tell him that his ability hadn't been impaired. The old man would never know the difference, after the practice he got in the hospital. His left hand was almost as good as his right had been. Besides, the industrialist would no doubt forget about him, once he had been hired.

He opened his mouth to speak, but a tight fist grasped his vocal cords. His forehead glistened with perspiration, as he hesitated. That wasn't the way, he thought. It was only a substitute. A lie, which would be constantly eating at his self-respect, and would never give him peace.

"I was right handed, Mr. Rohan," he said in resignation. "I lost my right arm, sir," he said, suddenly pleading. "All I need is a chance to show you. I'm not perfect yet, but I can keep accounts fairly legibly, writing left handed." He paused, watching the old man. Rohan's face remained impassive. He fumbled with the letter, and rubbed his hand over his chin.

The same as all the rest, Rod thought. They won't even look directly at me. Probably thinking of the easiest way to say it. He laughed bitterly to himself.

The old man looked up suddenly. "Mr. Cooper," he stated, "suppose you report for work on Monday."

Rod leaned forward, his eyes wide, as the words crashed home to him. "You mean I'm... I'm hired?" His voice lifted eagerly. "I don't know how to thank you, I... I..."

"You don't have to thank me, son," the industrialist laughed. "I know you'll do well at the job." He smiled. "Reminds me," he said reminiscently, "of the time I asked for a



**DIES IN FLAMES**—John Hamilton, 3, died with two other children in the flames of a stairway leading to shed at the rear of a house in Westmount, a suburban district in Montreal, P.Q. The boys are believed to have been playing with a lantern.



**Copy Cat**

By ANNE ADAMS

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chance, some twenty-five years ago."

He called to the dog, and when the animal approached, he bent over and ran his hand over its body, until he touched the heavy harness.

"Come on, Champ," he said. "Let's show Rod to the door."

(Copyright Wheeler Newspaper Syndicate)

### Saskatoon Bids For Skate Races

MONTREAL. — Chaplain Provencher, honorary secretary-treasurer of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, said he had learned that Saskatoon intends to make a bid for the 1949 Canadian amateur ice speed skating championships.

If the A.S.A.C. sanctions Saskatoon's bid at the annual meeting in Montreal Nov. 20 it would be the first time since the association's foundation in 1887 that such a meet was awarded western Canada.

### CANADIAN BULL WINS

At the Royal Easter Show of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales the Jersey bull championship was won by the former Canadian bull Bellavista Samaritan Royal. This bull was purchased by the New South Wales Buying Delegation at Milner, B.C., during the winter of 1947.

### PEGGY

**Peggy**



## OUR WESTERN TOWNS

## RADVILLE

SASKATCHEWAN

## A Beauty Spot Of The South Country

THE town of Radville, situated 84 miles south and east of Regina, is often referred to as "a friendly little town in the south country". It has nice wide streets and avenues, all gravelled and maintained regularly; even the back lanes are gravelled as well. Shade trees, most of them set out some 16 years ago, line all streets and avenues in the residential section, giving a home-like and permanent appearance to the town as well as providing cool shade from the summer sun. On Main street, a block from the business section, is Coronation Park, well treed and provided with seats.

At least 90 per cent. of the homes are owned by the people living in them, and the majority take a degree of pride in their property and home surroundings. Hedges, trees and flower gardens are a prominent part of the summer scene. While Radville has as yet no organized horticultural society, one has already been talked of. Flower-lovers of the town regularly win prizes at the Weyburn and Regina shows.

With its three general stores, two hardware, a large hotel, two restaurants, drug store, bank, newspaper and printing plant, tailor shop, theatre, locker plant, two lumber yards, machine shop, garages, implement agencies, dentist, doctor, lawyer, jewellers, etc., Radville is the business and trading centre for a large area. Farm folk and people from the smaller hamlets come to Radville from as far south as the international boundary, a distance of 30 miles.

The town has two schools; the Radville public and high school, and the Sisters of St. Louis Academy where many students from the district board-in for the school term. The office of Radville Larger School Unit No. 3 is also located here. Religious well-being of the town's citizens is also well taken care of by the Roman Catholic, United and Anglican churches, the Church of Christ and the Full Gospel Mission.

Radville is a divisional point on the Canadian National Railways, and a goodly portion of its citizens earn their livelihood as railway employees in the roundhouse, shops, on train crews, etc. A two-man R.C.M.P. detachment is located here. The local Canadian Legion branch has recently completed a fine little hall on Main street, the work being done mostly by volunteer labor, and the building is free of debt. Another prominent building is the Memorial hall, which is regularly used for public meetings, dances, Wheat Pool and teachers' annual conventions, etc.

The town has a temporary six-bed hospital operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, with headquarters at Pembroke, Ont. This was established in 1946 to serve the needs of town and district until the new twenty-



The above picture is one of Radville's beautiful well-treed streets, the result of plantings some 16 years ago.



The above is the architect's drawing of Radville's new modern 20-bed hospital now well on the way to completion.

## Western Briefs

SIMMIE, Sask.—Prompt action on the part of Fred Charboneau, Simmie farmer, saved the life of his small son Leroy. The boy was riding on the tractor with his father, and when the father put the machine in gear it threw the lad off and he landed between tractor and one-way. The father stopped the machine instantly and the boy was uninjured.

CADILLAC, Sask.—A. Tomlinson, and son Allan of Cadillac supplemented their income greatly when they came upon a den of seven coyote pups. They worked all day without stopping for meals to get the seven tiny coyotes dug out. They received \$5 bounty for each pup.

RED DEER, Alta.—The city council has decided to proceed with construction of a \$75,000 swimming pool.

VICTORIA, B.C.—Establishment of a huge aluminum plant in British Columbia depends on waterpower potentialities, top executives of the Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd., said.

WINNIPEG. — The senate of the University of Manitoba honored 1,029 graduates and four distinguished Canadians in the largest convocation in the institution's 71-year history.

REGINA, Sask.—Piggott Construction Company of Saskatoon and F. R. Gibbs of Lumsden have been awarded contracts for grading 38 miles of highways 11 and 9.

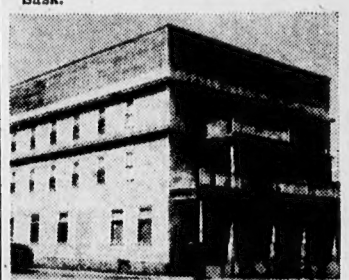
WINNIPEG. — Resources Minister J. S. McDiarmid announced that surveying for concentrations of uranium minerals will be carried out this summer by Manitoba Government geological survey parties. Eight field parties will be placed in various parts of the province, six of them assigned to do geological surveys and mapping work.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.—Shortage of turkeys for Christmas was forecast at a meeting of the Fraser Valley Turkey Improvement Association recently. The meat strike in the United States has resulted in heavy American orders for B.C. live and cold storage turkeys which will exhaust the present surplus, reported President Cecil Hartley.

is left in abeyance for the time being.

The district surrounding Radville is excellent wheat country when favored by average rainfall, yields as high as 40 to 50 bushels to the acre being not uncommon. Stock-raising is also an important part of the agricultural scene. A Dominion experimental sub-station is situated two miles north of the town. Riverside Gardens, near town, is somewhat of a show-place, and was considered of sufficient interest and beauty to be photographed by National Film Board men in 1946.

NOTE: Other publishers of small town papers are invited to contribute to this column by sending copy and pictures to the Winnipeg Newspaper Union, 1410 Scarth Street, Regina, Sask.



Radville's spacious Empire Hotel, (shown above), is well equipped to take care of the travelling businessman and tourists.

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**Peggy**





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(1) The Homemaker—\$2.00	(1) Flower Grower—\$2.00
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(1) Parents' Magazine—\$2.00	(1) Nature Magazine—\$2.00
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(1) Popular Mechanics—\$2.00	(1) Reader's Digest—\$2.00
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## HERE AND THERE

Campbell Brown has purchased the residence of Buster Stott. Mr. Brown does not know just when he will move in.

Elmer Saunders of Calgary spent a few days in town last week looking up his old friends.

Tom Robinson came down from Calgary Monday night to spend a few days in town looking after his business interests here.

Wyn. Vardell went to Calgary Monday to enter Belvoir hospital. Mr. Vardell has not been enjoying very good health for some months past.

Mr. V. Coldwell, the local school principal, took his mother to the Bessie hospital on Monday evening's train. Mrs. Coldwell has not been enjoying the best of health for some time past.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. House of Arrowwood spent Saturday in town visiting their many friends. This is the first time they have been in Glendon since last year. Some time ago Mrs. House fell on the slippery stairs and broke her wrist. She has now almost recovered from the injury.

### OIL DIFFICULTIES

The present difficulties in meeting Canada's greatly increased demand for petroleum products are temporary and there is no basic shortage of oil, according to the Imperial Oil Review. More products are being provided than ever before but even with supply meeting, new levels demand continues to exceed it.

The article gives figures for the crude oil processed by Canadian refineries in 1947. Alberta, Canada's oil province, imports 20 percent of her refinery requirements from U. S. but draws the remainder from her own oil fields.

Last year Alberta refined 5,558,227 barrels obtained from her own area and 1,655,673 barrels from the United States.

Canada produces less than 10 percent of the crude petroleum used by Canadians and the rest must be imported from the United States and South America. About half of Canada's crude comes from the U. S., although this is only 20 percent of U. S. production. South America is our main source, supplying about three-eighths of our need.

In addition to crude oil, Canada also imports quantities of refined products. About 80 percent is from the U. S. and 20 percent from the Caribbean area. The larger part of product importations is consumed in B.C. and the eastern provinces and a comparatively small proportion reaches the prairie provinces.

Far more current earnings are being turned back into efforts to enlarge supplies. So far as Canada is concerned the company is engaged in struggle against material shortages and increasing demand, but it is being won. Increasing assistance is expected from the Middle East, which has the world's greatest oil reserves. This will be particularly helpful when it replaces shipments now being made to Europe from the U. S. and other places making more oil available in U. S. and Canada.

The bright spot on the Canadian scene is the Leduc oil field, the article continues, supplying 372,450 barrels of crude to the end of 1947. The discovery of Leduc is of national importance and also has stimulated the search for other new fields.

Leduc has meant the establishment of a new refinery at Edmonton. Imperial Oil bought the refinery at Whitehorse, Y.T., dismantled it and transported it 1,250 miles to its new site. This unique action, which in all will cost some \$7,000,000, will save 18 months' time compared to the building of a new plant. The Edmonton refinery will be in partial operation this month and its capacity will be from 4,000 to 6,000 barrels a day.

Early this year, Henry H. Hewson, president of Imperial Oil, laid potential production in the U. S. available to Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The company is considering the possibility of installing a 500,000 pipe line at a probable cost of \$30,000,000. Imperial expects to spend about \$20,000,000 this year in development of the Leduc field and further exploration and expansion in Alberta.

The company also has an extensive exploration program under way in southwestern Ontario, where more than 100 wells have already been drilled. This program has resulted in the discovery of a gas and oil field and a gas well. Two recent discoveries in that area indicate that another minor oil field has been found, and perhaps another gas field.



### TENDERS FOR COAL (Western Provinces)

SEALED Tenders addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Coal for Western Provinces" will be received until 3:00 P.M. (E.D.S.T.), Tuesday, June 8, 1948 for the supply of coal for the Dominion Buildings and Experimental Farms and Stations throughout the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Forms of tender with specifications and conditions attached can be obtained from the Purchasing Agent, Department of Public Works, Ottawa; the District Resident Architect, Winnipeg, Man.; the District Resident Architect, Saskatoon, Sask.; the District Resident Architect, Calgary, Alta.; and the District Resident Architect, Victoria, B. C.

Tenders should be made on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the departmental specifications and conditions attached thereto. Coal dealers' license numbers must be given when tendering.

The Department reserves the right to demand from any successful tenderer, before awarding the order a security deposit in the form of a certified cheque on a chartered bank in Canada, made payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender, or Bearer Bonds of the Dominion of Canada or of the Canadian National Railway Company and its constituent companies unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Dominion of Canada, or the aforementioned bonds and a certified cheque, if required to make up an odd amount.

By order,  
J. M. SOMERVILLE, Secretary.  
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